



PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH

August 2, 2020

*Connecting with the Community,
Growing Disciples, and Serving Jesus Christ*

*Our Worship can be viewed on our website
PantherValleyChurch.org*

FRIENDS ~ FAMILY ~ FAITH

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to this place with different needs: some of us wrestling with problems that threaten to overwhelm us; some of us crying out for healing, for relevance, for refuge; some of us hungering for what God alone can provide. In this time and in this place, God is here and meets us face to face.

OPENING PRAYER

Compassionate God, may your abundant grace and mercy flow upon us, so we may truly encounter you in this hour of worship. Breathe upon us the fresh winds of the Holy Spirit so our minds may be open, our hearts warmed, and our souls stirred to the love of Christ in a new way. We ask this in the precious name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

HYMN O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

Gracious God, provider of all we need, we are often content to rely on our own devices, our creativity, our cleverness. We congratulate ourselves for our accomplishments, yet we find that these achievements and acquisitions do not fill the deep hunger inside of us. We long for the Spirit bread you alone can provide. Forgive us, merciful God. Help us receive the blessings you offer, that we may be your bread for the world— blessed, broken for all.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear the good news. God's mercy is plentiful, and God's grace is abundant.
Receive the bread of forgiveness and steadfast love.

SCRIPTURE READING: *Genesis 32:22-31*

The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.

GOSPEL READING: *Matthew 14:13-21*

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took

up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

MESSAGE God Won't Let Go

SPECIAL MUSIC

PASTORAL PRAYER

O God, hear our cries: for those who hunger, and those who are full; for those who need you desperately, and those who feel no need for you; for those who wrestle with the impact of being your blessed children; for those who are unaware of your offered blessing; and for concerns that are too difficult to express. Hear our cries, O God of our salvation. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Receive these gifts we offer, gracious God, and multiply them to meet the needs in your world. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

We are here because Jesus has called us – strangers and friends, locals and visitors, believers and doubters, the certain and the curious. It is always a mixed company that Jesus gathers and invites to his table where, in bread and wine, he meets us and through him we, who are different, are joined to each other.

So come, not because you understand, but because you are understood.

Come, not because of how you feel, but because God has food for you.

Come, not because you deserve a place, but because Jesus invites you, just as you are.

~ Iona

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

... And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory,

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

... And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and

thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died;

Christ is risen;

Christ will come again.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

... Through your Son Jesus Christ, with your Holy Spirit in your Holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

Please raise a plate of "something" on your table, or a glass of whatever you are drinking, and let us bless it in this way, repeating after me:

Holy Comforter

We gather in your name...

invited by Jesus...

bound together with your Spirit...

in union with each other...

Feed our bodies and our spirits...

with your comforting presence...

so that we might be your comfort to others...

Bless this food...

and break open our hearts...

Bless this drink...

and pour out your love...

Amen...

SENDING FORTH

You have been fed with the bread of heaven, and blessed by the presence and peace of God. Now go into the world in the peace of Christ to be bread for the world.

Shalom To You

POSTLUDE

Credits: Today's Liturgy is adapted from: Call to Worship, Prayer for Forgiveness, Prayer of Dedication, Sending Forth, M. Anne Burnette Hook, Opening Prayer, Sudarshana Devadhar.

HYMN, O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go, CCLI # 40502, Public Domain. Shalom To You, CCLI #114122, The United Methodist Publishing House

Announcements & Upcoming Events

Bible Study on Zoom:

Monday Night at 7pm *Unshakable Hope*

Tuesday Night at 7pm *The Good Gospel*

Wednesday Morning at 10am *God Is Closer Than You Think*

Care and Nurture Prayer Shawls and Palm Prayer Squares are in the coat closet outside Fellowship Hall. People can take a bag to give to anyone who is in need of support and comfort.

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